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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

for the

### Borough of

### Clifton { Dartmouth Hardness

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D. K. MacTAGGART, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

V. E. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector,

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

for 1954

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*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954 in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

There was a rise in both the birth and death rates in the year 1954, but with comparatively small numbers such as are involved, these fluctuations occur and are not of great significance. The total number of births increased from 71 in 1953 to 83 last year. This gives a crude birth rate of 14.16 per thousand population, and when corrected for variations in population this shows a birth rate of 15.58 per thousand population, which compares with 13.94 in 1953 and 15.2 for England and Wales as a whole.

There was a total number of 83 deaths in the year compared with 75 the previous year and this gives a crude death rate of 14.16 per thousand population and a corrected death rate of 11.32 per thousand. The rate for 1953 was 10.76 and for England and Wales is 11.3. The main causes of death were as follows:—

1. Cancer—18.
2. Vascular lesions of the nervous system (strokes)—14.
3. Heart Disease—17.
4. Disease of the Respiratory System—10.

The incidence of infectious diseases has been low, the most notable items being an outbreak of Chicken Pox in the early months of the year, amounting to 147 cases; and a small outbreak of Food Poisoning. Three families were affected involving seven people, all of whom had consumed parts of chickens put aside for disposal in a hotel kitchen, but instead taken home and given to his family and friends by one of the staff. Fortunately, the illness was mild and of short duration. Immediate action was taken at the hotel concerned to prevent any repetition.

# Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Based on the Registrar General's figures

1.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	1925
Population—census 1951 (April)	...	...	...	...	...	6707
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1953	...	...	...	...	...	5853
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1954	...	...	...	...	...	5860
Number of inhabited houses, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	1774
Number of inhabited houses, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	1819
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£56,613
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£221

2.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year

	Total	Male	F'male
Live Births	83	42	41
Legitimate	79	40	39
Illegitimate	4	2	2
Still Births	1	0	1
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Crude Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population			14.16
Comparability Factor			1.10
Corrected Birth Rate			15.58
	Total	Male	F'male
Deaths	83	48	35
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			14.16
Comparability Factor			0.80
Standardised Death Rate			11.32
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth :			
Puerperal Sepsis			0
Other Puerperal Causes			0
	Total	Male	F'male
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	4	2	2
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	1	0	1
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Death rate of infants per 1,000 live births			48.19

# Causes of Death during 1954

	Total	Male	F'male
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	0	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease ... ..	1	1	0
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0	0
Mening-coccal infections ... ..	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0	0
Other inf. and parasitic dis. ... ..	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	5	2	3
,,      ,,      lung, bronchus ... ..	2	2	0
,,      ,,      breast ... ..	2	0	2
,,      ,,      uterus ... ..	0	0	0
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	5	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	0	0	0
Diabetes ... ..	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	14	10	4
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	6	3	3
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	3	1	2
Other heart disease ... ..	5	3	2
Other circulatory disease ... ..	3	0	3
Influenza ... ..	0	0	0
Pneumonia ... ..	2	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	6	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	2	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	1	1	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	3	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1	1	0
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	2	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	0	0	0
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	11	4	7
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	0	0	0
All other accidents ... ..	2	2	0
Suicide ... ..	0	0	0
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	0	0	0
All causes	Total	83	48 35

## Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease

The number of cases of notifiable diseases are listed in the table below. The most notable feature is the outbreak of Chicken-Pox of which there were 147 cases. This took place during the months of January and April.

### Diseases other than Tuberculosis, notified during the year

Disease	Total cases notified			
Chicken-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	147
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	15
Food poisoning ... ..	...	...	...	7
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	4
Mening-coccal Infection ... ..	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	1
				—
				186

Tuberculosis		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ... ..	...	3	9	12
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	...	—	1	1
				—
				13

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk

Samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector, are examined and reported upon by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

Periodic sampling for presence of Tubercle infection was continued throughout the year.

### Ice Cream

Examination of samples by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter has continued. Ice Cream is graded as follows:—

Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Interpretation
1.	4½ hours or more	Satisfactory
2.	2½ to 4 hours	Fair
3.	½ to 2 hours	Unsatisfactory
4.	0	Very Bad

Your Officers investigate and advise in all cases where satisfactory results are not obtained. It should be noted that the chemical and bacteriological testing of ice cream remains yet on trial in a scientific sense and has not reached that stage of being able to be used in taking of statutory action.



## **Meat**

It is still satisfactory to note that the percentage of tuberculosis meat found upon meat inspection at the Abattoir continues to decline. The procedure always adopted as a safeguard against tuberculosis infecting milk supply is detailed by the Sanitary Inspector in his notes upon Meat Inspection. In the past prompt steps have been taken to ensure that any such suspected milk, raw and untreated, will, without delay, cease to be distributed in the borough.

## **Water Supplies**

Supply has been adequate. Chlorination has been continued at the main source as a final treatment after filtration. By maintaining a relatively high dosage of chlorine, the Water Board have continued to obtain a final satisfactory drinking water.

There are 41 properties scattered about the Borough which get their supply of water from private sources. The majority of these sources of supply are from springs or shallow wells situated invariably on agricultural land and are, with the exception of one, unfiltered and unchlorinated.

Water samples taken through the year have revealed some evidence of bacterial contamination, but there has been a general improvement in the situation, as those supplies showing the most consistent rate of contamination have been eliminated, and the premises concerned are now supplied by the South Devon Water Board.

## **Housing**

Housing details and visits made are noted in the report by the Sanitary Inspector. Additional visits have been made by your Medical Officer in connection with applications for rehousing recommended upon medical grounds by certificates from general medical practitioners. Visits have also been paid to see Aged People and inspect their housing conditions in connection with your statutory duties under the National Assistance Act.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

*i* LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health), Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter. Specimens are submitted from private practitioners and from this Department for bacteriological examination.

## *ii* AMBULANCE SERVICES

This service is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer (Ambulance Section), "Ivybank," 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter (telephone Exeter 4051). Dartmouth has one ambulance, which is run by the St. John Ambulance and Nursing Brigade under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council. The ambulance is used for emergency and non-infectious stretcher cases, and may be called by doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, hospitals or clinics. The ambulance station is situated at Roseville Street, Dartmouth—telephone Dartmouth 76/77.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AMBULANCE

Ambulance arrangements for infectious disease (other than smallpox) are made by the Torquay Isolation Hospital (telephone Torquay 63276) for cases entering the hospital from the Dartmouth area.

## HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

The Hospital Car Service (organised by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society and the Women's Voluntary Service) operates under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council for sitting cases.

## *iii* HOSPITALS

The Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital, situated at The Embankment, Dartmouth (telephone Dartmouth 41), is administered by the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from Dartmouth also attend the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, which is the principal general hospital for the area.

## *iv* CLINICS

The Devon County Council have a clinic situated at Mayor's Avenue, Dartmouth, where mothers of young children attend for advice on the care of young children. School children attend for treatment of minor ailments, for dental treatment, and for advice and treatment at an Eye Clinic held there.

## *v* HEALTH VISITORS

There is one Health Visitor—Miss Hartigan—who combines school medical duties with health visiting. She is on the staff of the County Medical Officer.

## *vi* NURSING IN THE HOME

This service is provided by the Local Health Authority

(Devon County Council), and the following nurses carry out these duties in Dartmouth:

Miss Culley, 11, Fairview Road, Dartmouth. Telephone: Dartmouth 268.

Miss Stirling, 11, Fairview Road, Dartmouth. Telephone: Dartmouth 268.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948/53

Section 47 of the Act of 1948, as amended, relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions, and are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care or attention.

It was not necessary to take action under this Section during the year.

I wish to acknowledge the support and encouragement which I have received from Mr. Hughes, the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

D. K. MacTAGGART,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Sanitary Inspector

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*To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors*

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Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report for the year ending the 31st December, 1954.

### SECTION D

#### HOUSING

##### 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

- |     |     |   |        |     |
|-----|-----|---|--------|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts)   | ... .. | 180 |
|     | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | ...    | 575 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included in the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932   | ... .. | 28  |
| (3) |     | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    | ... .. | 3   |
| (4) |     | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... .. | 104 |

##### 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	70
---	--------	----

### 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (a) Proceedings, under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—   |   |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs  | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:   |   |
| (a) By Owners ... ..   | 0 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..   | 0 |
| (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—   |   |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requesting defects to be remedied ... ..   | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:—   |   |
| (a) By Owners ... ..   | 0 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..   | 0 |
| (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—   |   |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...  | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..  | 0 |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—  |   |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..  | 3 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. | 0 |

### 4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART VI. OVERCROWDING

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... .. | 1 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein ...                                 | 1 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...                                  | 8 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..     | 2 |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..     | 0 |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases                               | 0 |



- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have once again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... .. 9)
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... 0

127 complaints were received and dealt with during the year and 180 houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts. Three unfit premises were closed, the occupants having been rehoused. It is sad to relate that in these days of enlightenment there were found several cases of dirty houses. Two discovered during the year were indescribably filthy and a great deal of time and persuasion were required before reasonable results were obtained, both cases involved comparatively young and active people with growing families who if left to live in such conditions could only be expected to perpetuate them. Unfortunately one cannot say that all such cases are always brought to light and it would appear that closer liaison between the various health services is needed.

Only one application was received for a certificate of disrepair under the new Housing Repairs and Rents Act and this was granted. It is evident that even now many landlords would rather forego the increase in rent they are permitted than spend the qualifying amount of money on their properties.

Late in the year a start was made on the survey of unfit properties which were thought likely to be included in slum clearance schemes. It is surprising to find that many tenants were prepared to put up with appalling defects rather than complain, in the mistaken belief that they would be issued with notice to quit if they did, others would rather put up with the defects than have them put right with the possibility of having their rents increased. Some would rather stay in sub-standard property at a very low rent than go to the new housing estate at Townstal.

# ABRIDGED SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED AND

## INSPECTED

Roofs ... ..	16
External Walls ... ..	14
Internal Plastering ... ..	9
Ceilings ... ..	4
Floors ... ..	9
Windows ... ..	7
Fireplaces ... ..	2
Doors ... ..	4
Chimneys ... ..	3
Premises cleansed ... ..	24
Bins provided ... ..	13

### DRAINAGE

Inspections made ... ..	70
Tests carried out ... ..	27
Drains repaired ... ..	30
Gullies provided or renewed ... ..	15
Sinks ... ..	16
Rainwater pipes and gutters ... ..	13
Water closets provided, repaired or renewed ... ..	15
New drains laid (excluding new properties) ... ..	20
Inspection chambers built or repaired ... ..	13

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) MILK SUPPLY

There are five registered Dairies in the Borough. Four of these now deal only in bottled milk from designated suppliers, the fifth is equipped with a pasteurising plant which has been extended and improved during the year. There is only one producer retailer who deals in tuberculin tested farm bottled milk. All other farm supplies are sent to pasteurising plants for treatment before distribution.

26 samples of milk were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the methylene blue test, of these four failed and were investigated on the farms concerned by the Milk Production Officer. 19 samples of raw milk were sent to the laboratory for a tuberculin test and all were returned negative. Five samples of school milk were submitted for the methylene blue and phosphatase tests, two failed the latter test and were investigated by the County Council Officer at the pasteurising plants which were outside the Borough.

## (b) FOOD PREMISES

One new restaurant and a sweets and confectioners were opened during the year. One fish and chip shop was closed, leaving the number of food premises at 86. A butcher and a greengrocers shops were transferred to new and modern well equipped premises. One of the leading hotels was completely modernised and redecorated throughout and a new kitchen was provided. At least 17 premises were internally redecorated. Two written and six verbal notices were issued. Altogether some 472 visits to food premises were made, excluding visits to the Abattoir. An investigation was carried out of the one outbreak of food poisoning which occurred during the year.

Visits made were as follows:—

Market and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	38
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	51
Bakehouses and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	57
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	68
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	54
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	8
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	95
Fruit and Grocery	...	...	...	...	...	52
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	47

## CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	468	187	137	3548	608
Number inspected	468	187	137	3548	608
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	7	14	11	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	131	90	2	506	46
Percentage of the number inspected af- fected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	28.4	51.9	11.7	14.6	7.9



## TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcases condemned ... ..	4	7	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	13	29	—	—	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	3.6	19.3	—	—	3.3

## MEAT INSPECTION

The Public Abattoir was used as a slaughtering centre by The Ministry of Food until July and up to that date home killed meat was supplied from the Abattoir to the whole South Hams, Dartmouth and Kingswear areas. Upon the resumption of private trading the Abattoir has continued to be used by local butchers and one wholesale meat trader. No applications were made for the licensing of private slaughterhouses in the Borough, it evidently being appreciated that adequate facilities were available at the Public Abattoir. This moderately centralised slaughtering enables a much better supervision to be made of home killed animals and is infinitely preferable to scattered slaughterhouses all over the countryside which are often unsuitable and put a very great burden and responsibility on the sanitary inspectors who have to visit them at all hours to maintain a satisfactory meat inspection service and then cannot be sure that 100 per cent of the animals are inspected. The Council found it necessary on de-control to introduce new scales of charges for use of the Abattoir, hoping that these charges will reduce the losses previously sustained. During the year 4,948 animals were dealt with at the Abattoir and all were inspected post mortem. There was a general reduction in the number of animals found to be affected with diseases other than tuberculosis, which also shewed a decrease except in the case of cows which shewed an appreciable increase in spite of the fact that more and more farmers are going over to tuberculin tested herds. There was a reduction in the number of animals found to be affected with cysticercus bovis. In order to ensure that condemned meat does not get into the wrong channels it is dyed to indicate that it is unfit for human consumption and disposed of to a reputable firm who process it into animal feeding meals and fertilisers.

# OTHER UNSOUND FOOD INSPECTED, CONDEMNED AND DESTROYED

Tinned Peas	83 lb.	Tinned Apricots	2 lb.
„ Corned Beef	6 lb.	„ Cherries	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
„ Jellied Veal	24 lb.	„ Beef & Gravy	5 lb.
„ Luncheon		„ Apples	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
„ Meat	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	„ Minced beef	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
„ Evaporated		„ Pork	4 lb.
„ Milk	13 lb.	„ Grapefruit	28 lb.
„ Spaghetti	2 lb.	„ Ox Tongue	12 lb.
„ Plums	36 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	„ Ham	16 lb.
„ Strawberries	1 lb.	„ Kidneys	3 lb.
„ Steak	6 lb.	Smoked fillets fish	42 lb.
„ Gammon	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Liver	25 lb.
„ Salmon	1 lb.	Bacon	65 lb.
„ Beans	1 lb.	Fresh Pork	30 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
„ Peaches	18 lb.		

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	M/C line	Number on	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	M/C	
					line	No
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3 & 4 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	7	15	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	41	109	2	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total	—	48	124	2	—	—

# CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	M/C line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which		M/C line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Prosecutions Inspector were instituted	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (51) ...	4	1	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (52) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable							
Temperature (53) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (54)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of							
Floors (56) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8

Particulars	M/C line	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which	M/C line	
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
					To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions were instituted
Sanitary Conveniences (57)							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	2	1	—	—	1	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork ...	12	1	1	—	—	—	12
Total ...	60	4	3	—	—	1	60

# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

Name of Local Authority, Dartmouth (County) Devon

	Local Authority	Type of Property			Agricultural
		Non-Agricultural	All	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	
		Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	Other including B. Premises		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
I	Number of properties in Local Authority's district ...	10	1819	415	2244
					20
II	Number of properties inspected as a result of:—				
	(a) Notification ...	4	61	16	81
	(b) Survey under the Act ...	2	150	91	275
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	4	50	10	64
					—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other including B. Premises	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
III	Total inspections carried out including re-inspections. (To be completed only if figures are readily available) ... ..				
IV	Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by				
	(a) Rats (Major)	...	...	1	—
	(Minor)	...	3	33	—
	Mice (Major)	...	...	...	...
	(Minor)	...	39	5	44
V	Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given in Sect. IV) ...				
	3	67	8	78	—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other including B. Premises	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VI Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments. (To be completed only if figures are readily available) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
VII Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:—					
(a) Treatment ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing) ... ..	—	—	2	—	—
VIII No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
IX Legal Proceedings (see overleaf) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
X Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ... ..	—	—	—	—	—



## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

One operator is employed and works alternate weeks at Dartmouth and Brixham. This arrangement has worked well and infestations have been kept well under control.

Visits to properties were as follows:—

Agricultural	...	...	...	...	12
Private Premises	...	...	...	...	392
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	123

Sewers were test baited once during the year and no evidence of infestation was found.

Estimated kill—Rats 1275.

„ „ Mice 445.

## SCHOOLS

All the milk supplied to schools was pasteurised and samples taken throughout the year were satisfactory.

The water supply to all the schools is from the town's chlorinated supply.

The cooking centre for school meals has always been found on inspection to be well maintained. The standard of hygiene has been most satisfactory and a credit to the Manageress, Mrs. E. C. Smith.

## DISINFECTION

The new Thresh steam disinfecter has proved very satisfactory. During the year over 154 articles were treated, most of these were for private persons or other authorities where the cost of treatment was recoverable.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS

ACT, 1951

There remains only one Registered User of Rag Flock and other filling materials for upholstery. Supplies are obtained from licenced premises outside the Borough. No samples were taken during the year.

### SHOPS ACT, 1950

Sunday trading was again the principal concern during the year. Traders are now however aware of their responsibilities and have responded well to advice. Periodic inspections under the Act were carried out and no notices were issued.

### PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Five private premises and two farms which were using unsatisfactory private water supplies were connected during the year to the South Devon Water Board's mains supply and the unsatisfactory sources eliminated. There now remain 41 premises scattered about the Borough which still depend upon private and often unsatisfactory supplies. Many of these it is hoped will shortly be connected to the South Devon Water Board's piped supply.

During the year 73 water samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, more than 50 per cent of these shewed evidence of pollution. This was not surprising considering that most of them were derived from shallow wells or springs rising on agricultural ground. Consumers were advised to boil all water shewing evidence of pollution.

### PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVE ACTS

Number of licenses granted to store Petroleum ...	11
Number of licenses granted to store Mixed	
Explosives ... ..	11

### GAME DEALERS' LICENSES

There were four licenses granted during the year authorising the dealing in game.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues in other departments, particularly the Borough Engineer and his staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector,  
Meat and Foods Inspector, Etc.



